



**Charleston, WV Chemical Leak
USEPA Region 3
Concept of Operations Document– EPA ConOps
January 11, 2014**

Operational Period: January 12, 2014: 800hrs-January 19, 2014: 0759hrs

24 Hour Number: 215.814.3255

24 Hour National Response Center Number – 800. 424. 8802

(to report new and oil or hazardous substances release)

www.epaossc.org/charlestonwvchemicalleak

Key Participants:

EPA Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) – EPA’s Incident Commander is Dennis Matlock

Other USEPA:

- Region 3 Incident Management Team (IMT)

- Special Teams

 - EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT)

 - EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW)

 - Regional Water Protection Division Water Program (WPD)

 - EPA Region 3 Laboratory

- Contracted Resources

 - Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team Contractor (START)

 - Emergency Response and Removal Services Contractor (ERRS)

 - Contract Laboratory Network

Other: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

A. Purpose:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3 Office of *Preparedness and Response (OPR)* maintains response capabilities, through the authorities of the FOSC, to respond to a release and/or a threatened release of oil and hazardous substances 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. The activities associated with the Charleston, WV Chemical Leak (CWVCL) are complex enough to merit EPA to deploy these capabilities so response actions can occur in a timely manner.

B. Communications:

Requests for EPA support should come through the EPA R3 Regional Operations Center (EPA3 REOC) Phone Duty Officer using the 24 hour Number: 215.814.3255

C. Implementation:

The assets described below in this document:

- Are available to support the State of West Virginia in its response to the release, and in its restoration of water systems to a healthy functioning state.
- Can be deployed under the EPA FOSC's authority per the National Contingency Plan (NCP) in service of the State directly, and/or under the National Response Framework in support of FEMA Mission Assignments.
- Are both regional and national and may be obtained through EPA Special Teams under the National Contingency Plan (NCP), but are coordinated thru the EPA FOSC (IC).
- May be accessed by contacting the **24 Hour EPAR3EOC Number: 215.814.3255**.

EPA's Region 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) is supporting FOSCs (who are located on scene) from the EPA3 REOC, located in Philadelphia, PA.

EPA oil and hazardous substance response support is provided by EPA On-Scene Coordinators (FOSCs) who coordinate and direct response to releases of hazardous substances and discharges of oil to navigable waters *as authorized by the National Contingency Plan (NCP)*. The EPA FOSC will coordinate all EPA resources including its special teams.

If FEMA issues a pending EPA a mission assignment, then these same EPA resources will be available for Emergency Support Function #10 response pursuant to the National Response Framework. The EPA resources will be integrated into the FEMA Consequence Management Branch and will be staged or managed from the Incident Command Post, per EPA FOSC determination.

EPA R3 is prepared to send additional, comparable resources however they are needed as the incident changes.

D. EPA R3 Assets and their Capabilities:

The **FOSC**, are on scene responding pursuant to the NCP. They have the capabilities to address hazardous substance mitigation, environmental sampling and analysis, direct read-out air monitoring support, personnel decontamination support and other similar assistance. They also have the ability to respond more broadly under a FEMA mission assignment which is pending FEMA approval.

The **EPA3 REOC**, located in Philadelphia, is activated and supporting the Response. It is running a Planning, Finance, and Operations Sections. It has established an **Environmental Unit** which is coordinating the needs and capabilities of experts in the public health and water protection field including: the EPA R3 Drinking Water Program, the EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT), the EPA Office of Ground Water and Dinking (OGWDW), the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, EPA Regional Toxicologists, and the Regional EPA Laboratory with access to its National Laboratory Network—their capabilities are described below.

The **EPA R3 REOC** can provide other additional resources, technical information and coordinate with EPA HQ in Washington DC. These resources include:

- A fully trained EPA R3 Incident Management Team (IMT).

- The Response Support Corps (RSC), a cadre of program/media trained professionals to augment oversight of field activities and provide experts in specific program fields like drinking water and others;
- Representatives from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) for environmental health assessment and consult purposes;
- Additional public information officer resources for direct assistance to the local health departments;
- Additional support as needed under the NRF.

Analytical Resources:

EPA Region 3 Laboratories and a Contract Laboratory Network—The EPA Regional Lab can assist in sample processing and can augment sampling capacities for the response through its laboratory network.

EPA Special Teams:

EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT)—has the capacity for mobile multi-media sample screening and real time air monitoring and screening. EPA ERT's Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) instruments can measure concentrations of pre-selected industrial compounds in the air at the parts-per-billion level as the bus is being driven down the street;

EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) and its Water Security Division (WSD)--Professionals with a focus on drinking water security, distribution system water quality, water treatment, and monitoring for contamination incidents.

Water Protection Program (WPD)--Water Protection Program personnel are available on reach back or on the ground capacity to provide technical guidance on water safety concerns to facilities, local health departments and others.

Contracted Resources:

Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team Contractor (START) and Superfund Emergency Response and Removal Services Contractor (ERRS) EPA contractors are ready to deploy their technical air monitoring, data management, and heavy earth moving equipment.

D. Outreach:

EPA is using and will also provide **Liaison Officers (LNOs)** where requested either by FEMA/DHS or Local Governments. At this time our LNO is actively maintaining the EOC informed of local needs and press briefings.

EPA is using and will also provide **Public Information Officers (PIO)** available to augment the capacity of local health departments to reach large numbers of public.

EPA is using and will also provide **Community Involvement Coordinators (CICs)** to augment local government public professionals outreach capacities. EPA CICs are also fielding public questions and referring callers to available information.